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March 8, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:


As chairman of the Energy and Telecommunications Committee, I strongly support The Consensus Plan which has been submitted by public safety officials and organizations throughout New York State.

The Consensus Plan would eliminate interference between first response radio devices and wireless phones that share frequencies of 800 MHz. Without use of this plan, radio channels used by First Response Teams are blended with the systems that wireless carriers utilize, thus compromising the effectiveness of our emergency personnel. Given the timelines that our emergency personnel require, it is imperative that we remove any obstacle that would jeopardize the lives of citizens.

Over the past two years, The Consensus Plan has been under FCC consideration and has received tremendous support from a number of public safety personnel and organizations throughout New York State. Groups such as fire chiefs, police officers, my colleagues in the State Senate, and individual citizens have been in strong support of this proposal.

In closing, the FCC has been deliberating this matter for two years, and I feel that in the context of public safety, it should be implemented immediately. The Consensus Plan is the best alternative to reconciling the issues associated with garbled public radio frequencies. As such, it is without hesitation that I support this proposal.

Sincerely,



Jim Wright  
State Senator

JWW:zd